

induced to attend. The presence here of a body of foreign leaders in the science would in itself be an interesting event, and could not fail to have an influence in extending and strengthening the science in this country.

Meetings of this nature are not infrequent in Europe, at which there is usually a fair attendance. But American and European distances are so greatly disproportionate that the single item of travel almost debar all thought of attempting to arrange an international congress with any reasonable hope of securing a satisfactory representation from different foreign countries.

If the purpose is ever accomplished there must be some additional attraction which can be urged in connection with the congress in order to afford a sufficient return for the outlay of time and money required of transatlantic visitors.

Why not make the World's Fair of 1893 the background for such a rally? There is no prospect of a greater attraction for years to come; American botanists are united, and properly organized; and the time is ample for preparation. Will the readers of the GAZETTE express their opinions? Our columns are open to a discussion of the matter.

The good that such a congress can do is not confined to personal enjoyment and the stimulus of direct intercourse, although that may be a delightful and valuable feature of the meeting, but there are important questions affecting the advancement of the science and the whole body of working botanists that can only be settled by a gathering of this kind. Such a question, or rather series of questions, is that of nomenclature, which to straighten out would be worth the effort put forth, even were nothing else accomplished. Questions of identity with their European representatives of many American species of plants difficult to preserve in herbaria, such as the fleshy fungi, can be settled in no way so well as by a conference of specialists with specimens in hand. Questions in geographical botany, methods of physiological research, and a host of lesser problems will present themselves for solution or discussion.

It seems to us that here is a great opportunity, a chance for an epoch-making movement for botany in America. If this should be the opinion of the majority of American botanists, we do not doubt that ways can be devised for making the suggestion a reality.

CURRENT LITERATURE.

Minor Notices.

MRS. E. G. BRITTON writes pleasantly in the February number of the *Microscope* on several mosses found growing in winter in a garden as an "Introduction to the study of mosses."

A SMALL GROUP of ascomycetous fungi, known as *Laboulbeniaceæ*, and

externally parasitic upon insects, has just been monographed by Roland Thaxter.¹ The paper is intended as a preliminary communication on American species, eventually to form a part of a monograph of Entomogenous plants. Two new genera are described (*Peyritschiella* and *Cantharomyces*), and eight new species. Peck's *Appendicularia entomophila* is referred to *Stigmatomyces* Karsten. The author requests attention to the following errata: p. 10, lines 1, 26 and 28, for *Blidii* read *Bledii*; line 21, for *Blidius* read *Bledius*.

PROFESSOR GEO. F. ATKINSON has published a monograph of the Lemnaceæ of the U. S.,² with three double plates. The author deals with the habitat, the general morphology, the germination of spores, the development of the protonema (prostrate form and *Chantransia*-form), development of the sexual shoot, development of the reproductive organs, fertilization and development of the carpospores, branching of the sexual shoot, and a presentation, with synonymy and range, of the seven species found in the United States.

WARD'S "*Plant Organization*"³ is another claimant for attention in the line of blanks for the description of flowering plants. As to method it is a considerable elaboration of the well known Apgar's Plant Analysis with numerous improvements. The first twenty-seven pages give an exhaustive terminology with diagrammatic illustrations, followed by a tabular arrangement of the orders of phanerogams. In both places we object to the prominence given to English terms and names over the technical and scientific, but as both are given the teacher can take his choice. The blanks which follow require most exhaustive examination in order to fill them out completely, being so detailed as to be "fussy." For most classes the time demanded could be spent more profitably in other ways. A special feature is the tying of the blanks in such a way that they can be removed and submitted separately for correction.

NOTES AND NEWS.

THE ANNUAL BANQUET in honor of Henry Shaw will be given at the Southern Hotel, St. Louis, May 26.

MR. W. B. HEMSLEY writes about the genus *Asarum* in *Gardeners Chronicle* (April 5), and describes three new Chinese species.

DURING THE recent expedition of Sir W. Macgregor to the highlands of New Guinea, a small but very important collection of plants was made at from 8,000 to 13,000 feet altitude. Baron von Mueller has reported on the 64 Phanerogams, 33 of which are found to be new and endemic, and two of these are new genera. Mr. J. G. Baker has just reported upon the Pteridophytes (*Jour. Bot.* April), and of the 70 species collected 18 are new, 11 of which are new species of *Polypodium*.

¹ Proc. Am. Acad. Feb. 12, 1890, pp. 5-14.

² Annals of Botany, vol. iv, no. xiv. May, 1890.

³ WARD, R. HALSTEAD.—*Plant Organization*. A review of the structure and morphology of plants by the written method. Second edition, revised. pp. 31, 50 blanks. 7½ x 9½ inches. Boston: Ginn & Co., 1890.